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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6010**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 22**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 11, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:** Jan 10, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Teacher Licensing.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lubbers

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** **X** GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) The bill requires the Department of Education to grant an initial practitioner's license for a specific subject area in middle school or high school to an applicant who has earned a postgraduate degree from a regionally accredited postsecondary educational institution in the subject area, has experience teaching students in a middle school, high school, or college setting, and complies with certain requirements for licensure.

The bill allows an individual licensed through the above process to be hired to teach in high school, or middle school if there is a teacher shortage in the area as designated by the State Board of Education. The bill requires the individual to comply with the same requirements as other teachers to renew a license or to obtain a proficient practitioner's license.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** (Revised) *Summary-* The Department of Education could see an increase in persons applying for an initial practitioner's license as a result of the bill. However, applicants that meet the criteria of the bill would be required to comply with certain existing licensing requirements for an initial practitioner's license. The requirements would include an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States, submission of a limited criminal history check, and passage of the PRAXIS series examination.

The bill would require an applicant to have at least one academic year of teaching experience, which may include teaching experience in a college classroom. The bill could require the need for additional administrative time for the Department to process license applications. The Department's Division of

Professional Standards reverted approximately \$34,000 at the close of FY 2007.

*Background Information: Transition to Teaching-* Under current law and administrative rule, persons with a baccalaureate degree, with certain GPA or professional restrictions, may enter into the Transition to Teaching program offered at any university within the state that offers an education undergraduate program. Typically, a person in the program must complete 18 or 24 credit hours of class work before applying for a teaching license. The bill would allow a person with a masters or doctorate degree and classroom teaching experience to bypass the credit hour requirement and upon successful completion of the PRAXIS examination apply for a license.

Since the program's inception through October 2007, the Department had granted 1,705 teacher licenses through the Transition to Teaching program.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** (Revised) The bill could generate a larger applicant pool for teaching positions in public schools. As a result, schools may be able to fill teacher shortage areas as determined by the State Board of Education. Hiring new teachers would be funded from tuition support allocations under future school funding formulas.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education, Division of Professional Standards.

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